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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/926,828	12/27/2001	Tatsuya Tomioka	216854US0 XPCT	2286

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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

BUTTNER, DAVID J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1712

DATE MAILED: 06/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/926,828

Applicant(s)

TOMIOKA ET AL.

Examiner

David Buttner

Art Unit

1712

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☒ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other: _____

Applicant's election with traverse of Group III in Paper No. 7 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the common requirement amongst the four inventions (i.e., a PC of MW 10,000-17,000 with 100-500 ppm release agent) is not met by JP08073724. Specifically, applicant states JP08073724 does not describe a PC of MW 10,000-17,000. This is not found persuasive because applicant/s statements regarding JP08073724 are not accurate. The reference (paragraph 45) explicitly calls for a MW of 12,000-18,000. All of the examples in Table 1 have a MW of 15,500. This reference was cited by an applicant on an IDS statement. The applicants presumably were aware of the contents of the reference.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Sakoda or J2000-001608 Patent in view of J2000-229899.

Both primary references disclose BPA type polycarbonate for optical discs. Both have low amounts of iron and MW's within applicant's ranges (see Table 1 of both references). Sakoda (col. 4, line 67) and J2000-001608 (paragraph 9) can include glycerol monostearate mold release agent. Neither reports any H-NMR data.

Art Unit: 1712

The H-NMR values claimed by applicant are obtained if the BPA is purified by distillation and subsequent contact with non-exchange resin (bottom of page 33 to top of page 34 of spec.)

J '899 shows such purification for BPA results in a stable hue etc. It would have been obvious to purify the BPA used by Sakoda or J2000-001608 for the expected improvement.

Applicant cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection because a translation of said papers has not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55. See MPEP § 201.15.

The International Bureau did not provide the Japanese priority documents.

Claims 11-15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Sakoda or J2000-001608 Patent in view of Meurer.

Both primary references disclose BPA type polycarbonate for optical discs. Both have low amounts of iron and MW's within applicant's ranges (see Table 1 of both references). Sakoda (col. 4, line 67) and J2000-001608 (paragraph 9) can include glycerol monostearate mold release agent. Neither reports any H-NMR data.

The H-NMR values claimed by applicant are due to impurities in the BPA used for making the polycarbonate (bottom page 33 to top page 34 of spec.).

Meurer teaches a method of purifying BPA to over 99.95%. This improves the transparency of polycarbonates made from the BPA.

It would have been obvious to use a highly purified BPA when making Sakda or J 2000-001608's polycarbonate to improve transparency. A highly purified BPA would result in the claimed ¹H NMR values.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Buttner whose telephone number is (703) 308-2403. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Dawson can be reached on (703) 308-2340. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 305-7115 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

DAVID J. BUTTNER
PRIMARY EXAMINER

D. Buttner/dh
June 12, 2003

